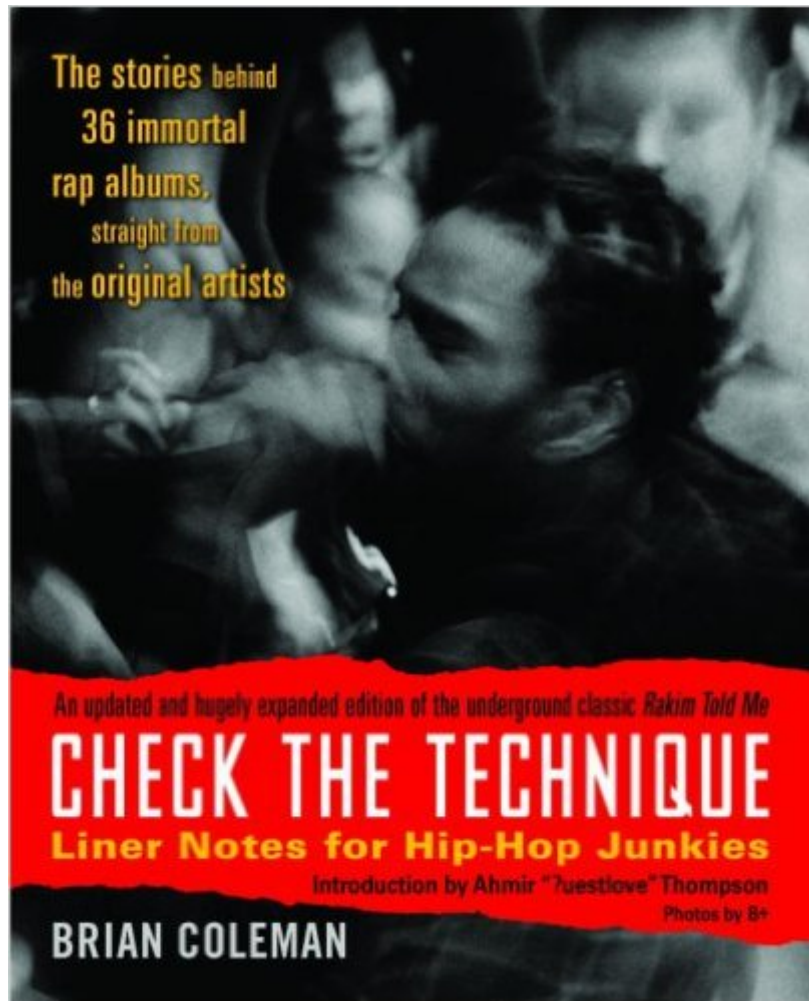


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Check The Technique: Liner Notes For Hip-Hop Junkies



Synopsis

A Tribe Called Quest • Beastie Boys • De La Soul • Eric B. & Rakim • The Fugees • KRS-One • Pete Rock & CL Smooth • Public Enemy • The Roots • Run-DMC • Wu-Tang Clan • and twenty-five more hip-hop immortals! It's a sad fact: hip-hop album liners have always been reduced to a list of producer and sample credits, a publicity photo or two, and some hastily composed shout-outs. That's a damn shame, because few outside the game know about the true creative forces behind influential masterpieces like Public Enemy's *It Takes a Nation of Millions...*, De La's *3 Feet High and Rising*, and Wu-Tang's *Enter the Wu-Tang (36 Chambers)*. A longtime scribe for the hip-hop nation, Brian Coleman fills this void, and delivers a thrilling, knockout oral history of the albums that define this dynamic and iconoclastic art form. The format: One chapter, one artist, one album, blow-by-blow and track-by-track, delivered straight from the original sources. Performers, producers, DJs, and b-boys—including Big Daddy Kane, Muggs and B-Real, Biz Markie, RZA, Ice-T, and Wyclef—step to the mic to talk about the influences, environment, equipment, samples, beats, beefs, and surprises that went into making each classic record. Studio craft and street smarts, sonic inspiration and skate ramps, triumph, tragedy, and take-out food—all played their part in creating these essential albums of the hip-hop canon. Insightful, raucous, and addictive, *Check the Technique* transports you back to hip-hop's golden age with the greatest artists of the '80s and '90s. This is the book that belongs on the stacks next to your wax. Brian Coleman's writing is a lot like the albums he covers: direct, uproarious, and more than six-fifths genius. • "Jeff Chang, author of *Can't Stop Won't Stop* • All producers and hip-hop fans must read this book. It really shows how these albums were made and touches the music fiend in everyone. • "DJ Evil Dee of Black Moon and Da Beatminerz • A rarity in mainstream publishing: a truly essential rap history. • "Ronin Ro, author of *Have Gun Will Travel*

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Customer Reviews

I bought Mr. Coleman's 'Rakim Told Me' when it first came out and was very impressed, so naturally I was excited when I heard he had an expanded volume in the works. This book is a true gem for real hip hop heads looking for anecdotal stories on the histories of their favorite groups/albums as well as an impressive examination of the many facets of the creative process as told by the artists themselves. This book is also a must for anyone with aspirations to make hip hop music, as it shows that there is much more to creating a classic album than simply rhyming 16 bars over a hot beat. Blood, sweat and tears; as well as lots of luck and a healthy dose of serendipity also play a major role in making an album come together in the right way. But, as essential as this book is, it's not without its disappointments. Sometimes Coleman gets artists to focus on albums that don't actually represent their best work. Examples: The Geto Boys discussing 'We Can't be Stopped' instead of 'Grip it on That Other Level'. Or Redman's rather shallow examination of 'Whut? Thee Album' when 'Dare is a Darkside' would have been a much more interesting read. And I would have much rather seen the Beastie Boys explain their masterpiece 'Paul's Boutique' instead of 'Check your Head'. But these are minor quibbles. Much more glaring is the omission of the brilliant Ultramagnetic MCs chapter concerning 'Critical Beatdown' which was one of the highlights of "Rakim Told Me" but is inexplicably absent from the new volume. Of course, there are also classic albums that didn't make the cut for whatever reason. I would have loved to have seen a chapter on Black Sheep's 'A Wolf in Sheep's Clothing' or Ice Cube's 'Amerikkka's Most Wanted'. Alas, like Mr.

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